



**DISC 5170 Introduction to Spiritual Formation**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Christian Education  
Fall 2017 Online

Philip A. Pinckard, Ph.D.  
Professor of Missions  
Office: Dodd 102  
Phone: (504) 282-4455, ext. 3224  
E-Mail: ppinckard@nobts.edu

**Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

**Core Value Focus**

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is Servant Leadership, which states in part: “We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.”

**Curriculum Competencies**

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership.

**Course Description**

This course is a pass-fail experience in a faculty led learning context. Students in the course will meet weekly for accountability, mentoring, discussion, and spiritual formation by participating and leading weekly meetings. Students will comprehend a variety of Christian devotional practices by completing specific assignments on basic spiritual disciplines. This course is designed to be taken during a student’s first semester. [\*\*See note below.]

\*\*Students registered for DISC5170 will automatically be registered for DISC5171 with the same professor, at the same time, the following semester if DISC 5171 is required for the student’s degree plan.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

In order to provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion and in order to stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for discipleship,

the student, by the end of the course should:

1. Comprehend the Following Concepts:
  - The marks of a disciple as something beyond the point of salvation.
  - Effective methods of becoming a disciple and of making disciples.
  - The relationship between spiritual maturity and spiritual disciplines.
  - Christian devotional practices or disciplines.
2. Have a positive response to the following concepts:
  - A life-long intentional devotional discipline for lifelong spiritual growth and benefit to the kingdom of God
  - A meaningful and maturing relationship with God.
  - Christian community in a small group setting.
  - A personal commitment to basic devotional practices.
3. Be able to, with the help of resources, accomplish the following tasks:
  - Develop a plan for personal discipleship and assist others to develop a personal discipleship plan.
  - Practice appropriate disciplines of the Christian faith.
4. Have an appropriate perception as to how to lead small discipleship groups.

### **Textbook**

Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. expanded edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

\*NOTE: The expanded edition is required for this course because of the included study guide for meeting with the assigned mentor on a weekly basis.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Complete all units and participate in all online discussions. Discussions will be based on the weekly reading outlined in the individual units. Discussion board posts will be graded on your thoughtfulness in engaging the textbooks and related topics. Your responses to your classmates' posts will be graded on your interaction with their statements or questions. Although length is not the primary emphasis of the posts or responses, you should write a sufficient amount to demonstrate adequate thoughtfulness.
2. In Unit 1, each student is to post a personal introduction via the Blog connected to Unit 1. Each student is also to comment on three classmates' introductory blog.
3. Read the assigned textbooks and additional class material while also facilitating one class discussion of an assigned chapter. Each student will be assigned a unit in which he or she will lead and facilitate the discussion via the discussion board for that specific unit.

4. Keep an electronic journal of your spiritual journey throughout the course and complete the assignments given by the professor for the spiritual journal. The journal is to include your thoughts/reflections about your spiritual journey. The student is to journal via the Blackboard Journal four times weekly with a paragraph (3-5 sentences) minimum each entry. The journal will not be read by the professor or other students but only briefly checked for completion. The completed journal is due the final unit of class, Unit 14.
5. Memorize and recite assigned Bible verses according to the specifications in the units. The student is to video himself or herself reciting from memory the assigned Bible verse. The student is then to upload and post the video to the appropriate Blog for that specific verse and unit. The Blogs are categorized according to verse. The verses and units in which they are due are outlined below.
6. The student must select an accountability partner, who is the same gender and who can challenge the student spiritually. The student will meet with the accountability partner for a minimum of thirty minutes per week beginning in Unit 3. The student will submit a signed statement in Unit 3 identifying the accountability partner.
7. Write a three-page reflection paper at the end of the semester. The assignment is due in Unit 13.

### **Evaluation of Grade**

The course is offered on a pass/fail basis as follows:

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Discussion Board Participation   | 20 % |
| Discussion Board Unit Leadership | 15%  |
| Journal                          | 20%  |
| Scripture Memorization Blogs     | 15%  |
| Accountability Statement         | 15 % |
| Reflection Paper                 | 15 % |

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

### **Course Schedule**

Unit 1 – Reading, Syllabus Review  
Personal Profile Post

Unit 2 – Reading, Discussion Board

Unit 3 – Reading, Discussion Board  
Scripture Memorization  
Accountability Partner Statement Due

Unit 4 – Reading, Discussion Board,  
Scripture Memorization

Unit 5 – Reading, Discussion Board  
Scripture Memorization

Unit 6 – Reading, Discussion Board  
Scripture Memorization

Unit 7 – Reading, Discussion Board  
Scripture Memorization

Unit 8 – Reading, Discussion Board  
Scripture Memorization

Unit 9 – Reading, Discussion Board  
Scripture Memorization

Unit 10 – Reading, Discussion Board  
Scripture Memorization

Unit 11 – Reading, Discussion Board

Unit 12 – Reading, Discussion Board

Unit 13 – Reading, Discussion Board  
Reflection Paper Due

Unit 14 – Reading, Discussion Board  
Journal Due

## Memory Verses

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Gal. 2:20     | Unit 3  |
| Phil. 3:10    | Unit 4  |
| Rom. 12:1-2   | Unit 5  |
| Jos. 1:8      | Unit 6  |
| Phil. 4:6-7   | Unit 7  |
| Heb. 10:24-25 | Unit 8  |
| Mt. 28:18-20  | Unit 9  |
| Col. 3:17     | Unit 10 |

## Course Reminders

1. Academic misconduct including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, or unacceptable conduct may result in failure of the course and disciplinary action by the seminary as outlined in the student handbook.
2. Failure of a computer, printer, or other electronic devices used to compose or print class assignments will not be accepted as a reason for late work.
3. Members of the course are expected to treat the professor and each other with respect in their conversation and conduct. If not, appropriate action may be taken based on seminary policies.

## **Selected Bibliography**

- Arn, Win, and Charles Arn. *The Master's Plan for Making Disciples*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.
- Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples*. Colorado Spring: Waterbrook Press, 2001.
- Blackaby, Henry T. and Claude V. King. *Experiencing God: How to Live the Full Adventure of Knowing and Doing the Will of God*. Nashville: B & H, 1994.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Hearing God's Voice*. Nashville: B & H, 2002.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. Translated by R. H. Fuller. New York: Macmillan, 1963.
- Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1978.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Practice of Godliness*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1983.
- Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 1993.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Master Plan of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 1987.
- Cymbala, Jim. *Break Through Prayer*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- DeMoss, Nancy Leigh. *Brokenness: The Heart God Revives*. Chicago: Moody, 2005.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Holiness: The Heart God Purifies*. Chicago: Moody, 2005.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Surrender: The Heart God Controls*. Chicago: Moody, 2005.
- Eims, Leroy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- Elliff, Tom. *A Passion for Prayer: Experiencing Deeper Intimacy with God*. Fort Washington, PA: CLC Publications, 2010.
- Floyd, Ronnie. *The Power of Prayer and Fasting*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997.
- Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1998.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Freedom of Simplicity: Finding Harmony in a Complex World*. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.

- Foster, Richard J. and James Bryan Smith. *Devotional classics*. Revised and expanded ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.
- Foster, Richard J. and Gayle D. Beebe. *Longing for God*. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2009.
- Foster, Richard J. and Emilie Griffin. *Spiritual Classics: Selected Readings on the Twelve Spiritual Disciplines*. New York: HarperCollins, 2000.
- Frizzell, Gregory R. *How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life: The Biblical Path to Holiness and Relationship with God*. Memphis: The Master Design, 1999.
- Hall, R. Clyde. *Handbook for Youth Discipleship*. Broadman, 1988.
- Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*. Wheaton: Crossway, 2001.
- Hull, Bill. *Jesus Christ Disciplemaker*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1984.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Disciple-Making Pastor*. Revell, 1988.
- Idleman, Kyle. *Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011.
- MacArthur, John. *The Keys to Spiritual Growth: Unlocking the Riches of God*. Wheaton: Crossway, 1991.
- Muller, George. *The Autobiography of George Muller*. New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 1984.
- Murray, Andrew. *Absolute Surrender*. Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1982.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*.
- Ortberg, John. *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Packer, James I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1973.
- Petersen, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship: The Challenge of Following Jesus in Today's World*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1993.
- Piper, John and Wayne Grudem. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1991.

Plantinga, Cornelius, Jr. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Platt, David. *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*. Colorado Spring: Multnomah, 2010.

Stanley, Charles F. *Handle with Prayer: How to Turn the World Around While on Your Knees*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1987.

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1991.

Wilkins, Michael J. *In His Image: Reflecting Christ in Everyday Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997.

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1988.

Wright, N. T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1995